

By: Parker

H.B. No. 787

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the security of the electric grid.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. (a) The Electric Grid Security Advisory Committee is created. The committee is composed of the following members:

(1) two members appointed by the governor;

(2) two members appointed by the lieutenant governor;

and

(3) two members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(b) Each member of the committee must have professional experience or technical training in:

(1) cybersecurity;

(2) electromagnetic interference;

(3) electric power generation or transmission;

(4) electromagnetic pulse hardening;

(5) physical security and controls;

(6) space physics and weather;

(7) supervisory controls and data acquisition; or

(8) emergency preparedness.

(c) The governor shall designate a member of the committee to serve as presiding officer.

(d) The committee shall convene at the call of the presiding

1 officer.

2 (e) The committee shall study the Texas electric grid and
3 the computer systems and networks related to it. The study must:

4 (1) evaluate and summarize the current state of the
5 electric grid and associated computer systems and networks;

6 (2) consider potential security threats to the
7 electric grid and associated computer systems and networks;

8 (3) assess whether further efforts are needed to
9 secure the electric grid and associated computer systems and
10 networks against damage, including the threat of electromagnetic
11 pulse or other attacks and natural threats, including solar flares;
12 and

13 (4) recommend measures to secure the electric grid and
14 associated computer systems and networks against damage.

15 (f) The committee may share its findings with any state
16 agency it considers important to the security of the electric grid
17 or associated computer systems or networks. To the extent allowed
18 by law, a state agency with which the committee shares information
19 is encouraged to implement any recommendations that the agency
20 determines will improve the security of the state's electric grid
21 or associated computer systems or networks.

22 (g) ERCOT shall cooperate with the committee to provide any
23 information and resources the committee considers important to the
24 study.

25 (h) A member of the committee is not entitled to
26 compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for the member's
27 travel expenses as provided by Chapter 660, Government Code, and

1 the General Appropriations Act.

2 (i) A vacancy on the task force shall be filled for the
3 unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.

4 (j) The committee is not subject to Chapter 2110, Government
5 Code.

6 (k) Not later than December 1, 2018, the committee shall
7 prepare a report of its findings, including any recommendations for
8 legislation resulting from the findings, and shall submit the
9 report to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of
10 the house of representatives.

11 (l) The committee's work relates to sensitive matters of
12 security. Notwithstanding any other law, the meetings, work, and
13 findings of the committee are not subject to the requirements of
14 Chapter 551 or 552, Government Code. Each member of the committee
15 shall sign a nondisclosure agreement stating that the member will
16 not disclose to the public any sensitive or identifiable
17 information related to grid security measures or plans.

18 (m) The committee is abolished and this section expires on
19 December 31, 2018.

20 SECTION 2. Subchapter Z, Chapter 39, Utilities Code, is
21 amended by adding Section 39.917 to read as follows:

22 Sec. 39.917. INFORMATION RELATED TO GRID SECURITY. The
23 independent organization certified under Section 39.151 shall
24 collect and compile information related to the security of the
25 electric grid. The information is confidential and is not subject
26 to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code.

27 SECTION 3. The governor, the lieutenant governor, and the

1 speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint members to
2 the Electric Grid Security Advisory Committee, as required by this
3 Act, as soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act,
4 but not later than the 120th day after the effective date of this
5 Act.

6 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.